

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072467  
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00  
L-03 H-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OFPP/STJOHNSON:SOT  
APPROVED BY EB/OFPP/RMOGDEN  
USDA/OGSM/HKOELLER, JKEEFER  
AID/NENA/JBROOKS (SUBS)  
NEA/AFN/TSWILKINSON  
USAID/FFP/FRD/LTANNER  
-----021133Z 031817 /22

R 020339Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, TS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL TITLE I PL 480 FOR TUNISIA  
REF: (A) TUNIS 1691, (B) TUNIS 1711, (C) 1874

1. THE TUNISIAN GRAIN SITUATION AS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS  
REFLECTS A MAJOR CHANGE FROM EARLIER REPORTS AND APPEARS  
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO GIVE  
SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION LATER IN THE PROGRAMING YEAR TO A  
PROBABLE TUNISIAN REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL 40,000 METRIC  
TONS OF TITLE 1 WHEAT IN FY 1977. HOWEVER, FIRM COMMITMENT  
CANNOT BE OFFICIALLY CONSIDERED UNTIL UP DATE OF SUPPLY/  
DISTRIBUTION DATA AND TRADE TABLE AND ESTIMATES FOR U.S.  
FISCAL YEARS 1977 AND 1978 HAS BEEN RECEIVED. SUGGEST YOU  
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SUBMIT THESE DATA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WHEN AND IF  
PROGRAMING SITUATION CHANGES IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION CAN  
BE GIVEN TO TUNISIAN REQUEST.

2. A CURRENT PROGRAMING CONSTRAINT IS SECTION 111 OF PL  
480 WHICH RESTRICTS PROGRAMING FOR COUNTRIES WITH OVER  
\$300 PER CAPITA GNP. GIVEN THE LEVEL OF PROGRAMING IN THE

75 PERCENT CATEGORY (COUNTRIES WITH LESS THAN \$300 PER CAPITA GNP), WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO INCREASE THE COMMODITY ALLOCATION IN FY 1977 TO 25 PERCENT CATEGORY

COUNTRIES, WHICH, OF COURSE, INCLUDES TUNISIA. ON THE OTHER

HAND, THERE HAS BEEN NO DECREASE IN REQUIREMENTS AMONG ALREADY ALLOCATED PROGRAMS IN THE 25 PERCENT CATEGORY. THUS, THERE IS NO UNALLOCATED SURPLUS OF TITLE 1 COMMODITIES IN THAT CATEGORY AT THIS TIME.

3. ANY ADDITIONAL TITLE 1 ASSISTANCE FOR TUNISIA IN THIS FISCAL YEAR WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY BY REDUCING THE ALLOCATION OF OTHER 25 PERCENT COUNTRIES OF IF, TOWARD THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, PERHAPS IN JUNE OR JULY, WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO PROGRAM ALL OF THE COMMODITIES NOW ALLOCATED TO THE BELOW \$300 CATEGORY TO COUNTRIES IN THAT GROUP SO THAT WE COULD REALLOCATE THE REMAINING SHORTFALL IN REQUIREMENTS TO THAT CATEGORY TO COUNTRIES IN THE 25 PERCENT GROUP. EVEN THEN, HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTRIES OTHER THAN TUNISIA TO CONSIDER AS WELL.

4. IN REGARD TO FY 1978, TUNISIA WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE INITIAL TITLE 1 ALLOCATION TABLE WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. THIS DECISION WAS BASED ON TUNISIA'S RELATIVELY ADVANCED ECONOMIC STATUS TOGETHER WITH CONSTRAINTS OF SECTION 111, AND NO DIFFICULTIES WERE ANTICIPATED IN THE 1977 HARVEST. SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESS AGREE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL THAT THE GNP CUTOFF FIGURE IN SECTION 111 BE RAISED FROM \$300 TO \$520, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER TUNISIAN NEEDS WHEN FINALLY DETERMINING THE INITIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR FY 1978 LATER THIS YEAR.

5. IN ANY CASE, WE WILL GIVE TUNISIA'S NEEDS OUR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION, FOR BOTH FY 1977 AND 1978, WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE LAW AND THE OTHER DEMANDS FOR TITLE 1 ASSISTANCE.

6. FOR MEETING NEAR TERM ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, GOT OFFICIALS MAY WISH TO REQUEST CCC CREDIT (GSM-5) FOR SIX MONTHS TO THREE YEARS FINANCING AT COMMERCIAL INTEREST RATES. THIS PROGRAM COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE IN MEETING SHORT-TERM BALANCE OF PAYMENT DIFFICULTIES. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009